

# The City of Galena Park

## City Commission Meeting

Date: May 6, 2014

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Galena Park was held at City Hall in the Council Chambers, Tuesday evening at 6:00 P.M. on May 6, 2014.

**Present were:**

R.P. Barrett	Mayor
Danny Simms	Commissioner
Joseph Thibodeaux	Commissioner
Robert Clowers	Commissioner
Maxie Campbell	Commissioner
Mayra Gonzales	City Secretary
Robert Pruett	City Administrator
Jim DeFoyd	City Attorney

Invocation: Danny Simms

Mayor Barrett called the meeting to order and asked for comments from the audience. Ms. Carol Simms said that she wanted to know why the police were called to Peace Lutheran Church on April 27<sup>th</sup> when nobody was doing anything wrong. There was a festival going on and everybody was having a fun time when the police showed up, that someone complained they were playing vulgar rap music. Ms. Carol Simms asked Commissioner Clowers why he had to call the police. Commissioner Clowers replied that he received a call from a citizen complaining. Ms. Simms asked what citizen called and complained, because they had talked to all the citizens around the church and nobody complained. Mr. Clowers stated he had a citizen call him and complain, he asked him to call the police and the citizen told him he did not want to call the police he wanted Mr. Clowers to take care of it. Mr. Clowers then called the police and Ms. Simms husband, Commissioner Danny Simms who is in charge of the church, and told him what a citizen had complained about. Ms. Simms asked if Mr. Clowers had gone by the church to see what was going on. Mr. Clowers answered no he did not he asked Mr. Simms to go by and see what was going on. Ms. Simms stated that there was no vulgar rap music that was played, it was Spanish Christian music and the people at the festival had the cd's and were willing to hand the cd's over to the police to prove it was not vulgar rap music. Commissioner Simms stated that he was embarrassed that someone he served on council with for 12 years made the call and someone that wants to be Mayor of the town. Mr. Simms told Mr. Clowers that god was going to take care of him, Mr. Clowers stated that god was going to take care of all of them and the thieving that went on. Mr. Simms interrupted Mr. Clowers and asked him what about the church, do you put the words vulgar rap music and a church together? Mr. Clowers stated once again he received a call from a citizen saying exactly what he told Mr. Simms and he is sorry if he offended him, but that is what he was told was going on. Mr. Simms asked Mr. Clowers if he had gone to check it out for himself. Mr. Clowers answered again to Mr. Simms no he did not and he is not a police officer. Mayor Barrett told Mr. Clowers he had no business getting in the middle of the situation and if a citizen calls him he should tell them to call the police. Commissioner Clowers stated to the Mayor that if he was telling him that as an elected official if he gets a call from a citizen... Mayor Barrett interrupted Mr. Clowers and stated yes he is telling him that. Mr. Clowers stated to the Mayor that he was wrong in that sense. Mr. Simms introduced to the council the Pastor from the church that is using his property, The Assembly of God Hispanic Church. They had several baptisms on resurrection Sunday and they were celebrating the baptisms and birthdays. Pastor Eduardo Lopez stated that his church was celebrating on that Sunday and they were having a great time videotaping, taking pictures, and listening to Christian music. Commissioner Simms stated everything was fine until the police showed up and the police did not



ask one question and were shaking their heads in disbelief of the phone call they had received on the church. Pastor Eduardo stated that they had Christian music of all different kinds jazz, rock, and rap. Commissioner Clowers asked Pastor Eduardo if he offered to give the cd to the police so they can listen to it and prove there was no vulgarity on it, Pastor Eduardo stated yes, but the police would not take it. The youth pastor of the church offered his password to his music list so that everyone can listen to the music that was played that day. The church welcomes everyone to come to the church, instead of the youth running around the city getting into trouble they offer them to attend the church. They want to reach out to everyone and make a difference in the community by what their music says and the message it offers. Mayor Barrett stated that on behalf of the City of Galena Park and the majority of the Council he would like to apologize for something that should have never happened. The Councilman has a bad habit of trying to be police commissioner and Mayor when he is not and it is another example of the way he operates and everyone that has not voted needs to think about that. Commissioner Clowers asked the Mayor if he was going to politic at the meeting and that he was campaigning from his chair. Mayor stated he is not running for reelection, but what he is saying is that if a citizen calls you an elected official with a concern or complaint you refer them to the police and let them handle it. Mayor stated to Commissioner Simms and his wife and to the Pastors of the other church he would like to apologize. Mayor asked if anyone else had something to comment on. Carmela Garcia, Councilwoman of Jacinto City, invited everyone to Cici's Pizza for a fundraiser for the LULAC Council of Galena Park High School.

Commissioner Simms moved to approve the minutes of regular meeting of April 15, 2014. Commissioner Thibodeaux, 2<sup>nd</sup> ... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Commissioner Clowers moved to approve the bills payable from April 15, 2014 to May 6, 2014. Commissioner Thibodeaux, 2<sup>nd</sup> ... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Commissioner Simms moved to approve KSA Engineering to advertise for bids on the construction phase (demolition) of the closure plan for the old section of WWTP #1 and WWTP #2. Commissioner Thibodeaux, 2<sup>nd</sup> ... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Commissioner Thibodeaux moved to approve LJA Engineering to advertise for bids for the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project using grant funds from TGLO. Commissioner Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> ... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Commissioner Thibodeaux moved to approve estimates 5 and 6 totaling \$157,667.90 and all final documentation from LJA Engineering on the water plant No. 1 generator project. Commissioner Simms, 2<sup>nd</sup> ... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Commissioner Simms moved to approve the reassignment of Jay Jones from part time to full time employment- street department. Commissioner Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Commissioner Thibodeaux moved to approve the resignation of Oliver Martinez- Part Time Street Department and Danielle Cantu- Part Time City Hall. Commissioner Simms, 2<sup>nd</sup> ... Vote: 4 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Commissioner Clowers moved to approve the part time employments of Zayra Rendon- City Hall. Commissioner Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> ... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Commissioner Thibodeaux moved to approve Troy Mason as a Volunteer Fire Fighter. Commissioner Simms, 2<sup>nd</sup> ... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Commissioner Thibodeaux moved to approve the resignation of Keith Beltz. Commissioner Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vote: ... 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Commissioner Simms and Commissioner Thibodeaux thanked everyone for attending the council meeting.

Commissioner Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Simms, 2<sup>nd</sup>... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned: 6:19 P.M.

R.P. Banick  
APPROVED

Mayra Gonzales  
MAYRA GONZALES  
CITY SECRETARY